

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 8 through 14, and 20 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1 through 7, 15 through 19, and 21 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An information processing method ~~of distributing~~ executed in an information processing apparatus which distributes across a network a ~~device driver printer driver~~ program for controlling a ~~network device~~ printing device to a client apparatus for managing the ~~network device~~ printing device, said method[[,]] comprising:

a designation step of designating range information for searching for a ~~network device~~ printing device connected to the network;

a search step of searching for the ~~network device~~ printing device which is controlled by installing the printer driver program to the client apparatus and corresponding corresponds to the designated range information; and

a distribution step of distributing a ~~device driver printer driver~~ program, from the information processing apparatus to the client apparatus, for managing the ~~network device~~ printing device within the range searched in the search step.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising an acquisition step of acquiring address information of the ~~network device~~ printing device on the

basis of data obtained by the result of search of the ~~network device~~ printing device in the search step,

wherein the distribution step performs the distribution process by using the address information acquired in the acquisition step.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising a recognition step of recognizing a preparation completion notification indicating that an accepting module which is activated in the client apparatus as a transfer destination of the ~~device driver~~ printer driver program and receives the ~~device driver~~ printer driver program is prepared,

wherein the distribution step distributes the ~~device driver~~ printer driver program in response to recognition of the preparation completion notification in the recognition step.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein the acquisition step acquires network address information corresponding to the range information for search, on the basis of data obtained by the result of search of the ~~network device~~ printing device.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the range designated to search for the ~~network device~~ printing device is designated for each domain, each OU (Organization Unit) in a directory service, or each IP address.

6. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus for distributing across a network a ~~device driver~~ printer driver program for controlling a ~~network device~~ printing device to a client apparatus for managing said ~~network device~~ printing device, comprising:

designating means for designating range information for searching for a ~~network device~~ printing device connected to said network;

searching means for searching for said ~~network device~~ printing device which is controlled by installing the printer driver program to the client apparatus and corresponds ~~corresponding~~ to the designated range information; and

distributing means for distributing a ~~device driver~~ printer driver program, from the information processing apparatus to said client apparatus, for managing said ~~network device~~ printing device within the range searched by said searching means.

7. (Currently Amended) A program for allowing ~~a computer~~ an information processing apparatus to execute information processing for distributing across a network a ~~device driver~~ printer driver program for controlling a ~~network device~~ printing device to a client apparatus for managing said ~~network device~~ printing device, comprising:

a designation module for designating range information for searching for a ~~network device~~ printing device connected to said network;

a search module for searching for said ~~network device~~ printing device which is controlled by installing the printer driver program to the client apparatus and corresponds ~~corresponding~~ to the designated range information; and

a distribution module for distributing a ~~device driver~~ printer driver program, from the information processing apparatus to a client, for managing said ~~network device~~ printing device within the range searched by execution of said search module.

8 - 14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) An information processing method ~~of distributing~~ executed in an information processing apparatus which distributes across a network a ~~device driver~~ printer driver program for controlling a ~~network device~~ printing device to a client apparatus for managing the ~~network device~~, printing device, said method comprising:

a first search step of searching for the client apparatus connected to the network by using a first device search module generated on the basis of script information;

a second search step of searching for a ~~network device~~ printing device which is connected to ~~the~~ the client apparatus found in the first search step by using a second search module generated on the basis of script information and is controlled by installing the printer driver program to the client apparatus; and

a distribution step of distributing, from the information processing apparatus to the client apparatus, the ~~device driver~~ printer driver program for controlling a ~~network device~~ printing device found in the second search step.

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 15, wherein the script information for generating the second device search module contains range information concerning a network address for specifying the ~~network device~~ printing device or information concerning a geographical range.

17. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus for distributing across a network a ~~device driver~~ printer driver program for controlling a ~~network device~~ printing device to a client apparatus for managing said ~~network device~~ printing device, comprising:

first searching means for searching for said client apparatus connected to said network by using a first device search module generated on the basis of script information;

second searching means for searching for a ~~network device~~ printing device which is connected to [[a]] the client apparatus found by said first searching means by using a second search module generated on the basis of script information and is controlled by installing the printer driver program to the client apparatus; and

distributing means for distributing, from the information processing apparatus to said client apparatus, the ~~device driver~~ printer driver program for controlling a ~~network device~~ printing device found by said second searching means.

18. (Currently Amended) A program for allowing ~~a computer~~ an information processing apparatus to execute information processing for distributing across a network a ~~device~~

~~driver printer driver~~ program for controlling a ~~network device~~ printing device to a client apparatus for managing said ~~network device~~ printing device, comprising:

a first search module for searching for said client apparatus connected to said network by executing a first device search module generated on the basis of script information;

a second search module for searching for a ~~network device~~ printing device which is connected to ~~[[a]]~~ the client apparatus found by execution of said first search module by executing a second device search module generated on the basis of script information and is controlled by installing the printer driver program to the client apparatus; and

a distribution module for distributing, from the information processing apparatus to said client apparatus, the ~~device driver~~ printer driver program for controlling a ~~network device~~ printing device found by execution of said second search module.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a ~~device driver~~ printer driver program for controlling a ~~network device~~ printing device, wherein said program comprises:

a designation module for designating range information for searching for a ~~network device~~ printing device connected to said network;

a search module for searching for said ~~network device~~ printing device which is controlled by installing the printer driver program to the client apparatus and corresponds ~~corresponding~~ to the designated range information; and

a distribution module for distributing a ~~device driver~~ printer driver program, from the information processing apparatus to a client, for managing said ~~network device~~ printing device within the range searched by execution of said search module.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a ~~device driver~~ printer driver program for controlling a ~~network device~~ printing device, wherein said program comprises:

a first search module for searching for said client apparatus connected to said network by executing a first device search module generated on the basis of script information;

a second search module for searching for a ~~network device~~ printing device which is connected to ~~the~~ the client apparatus found by execution of said first search module by executing a second device search module generated on the basis of script information and is controlled by installing the printer driver program to the client apparatus; and

a distribution module for distributing, from the information processing apparatus to said client apparatus the ~~device driver~~ printer driver program for controlling a ~~network device~~ printing device found by execution of said second search module.